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## **Architects for West Jordan Courthouse Created Design of Dignity and Welcome**

(Salt Lake City, UT -- June 8, 2005) Architectural balance between “judicial respect” and “the people’s court” was the guiding philosophy for the new West Jordan Courthouse for GSBS Architects who designed the new building. The GSBS design team collaborated with the Utah State Division of Facilities Construction and Management and the Administration Office of the Courts to create a courthouse which conveys the dignity and importance of the judicial system in our democratic government, while at the same time welcoming citizens to the center of justice.

According to Kevin Miller, AIA, principal in charge for GSBS Architects, GSBS has experience with the Utah State Court System, which includes working with the Courts in all 29 Counties over a period of 18 years. Stephen Smith led the planning team, which prepared the first Utah Judicial System Master Plan in 1986-1987.

Subsequent to the Master Plan, GSBS was hired to work with the Office of the Court Administrator to modify existing court facilities to improve the compliance with the Master Plan guidelines. This contract involved 25 projects in 13 Counties over a period of several years. Some of the compliance issues, such things as correcting sight lines that didn't work, were in old as well as recently completed projects.

More recently, GSBS was selected to prepare a comprehensive revision and update to the original Judicial Master Plan. The update included revision of the Operational and Facility Planning Guidelines, Judicial Design Guidelines, and Judicial Space Standards. This complete revision was completed in 2001. The relevance of this planning experience to this project is that GSBS teams developed and prepared all the master plan and judicial design standards that have guided Utah Courts design and planning for the past 18 years, including the standards for this project.

In addition to the theory, GSBS has also been steadily involved in the practice of court facility design. GSBS has programmed two court facilities and designed six stand-alone courthouses in the last 15 years. Beginning with the design of the 1st District Court House in Brigham City that demonstrated the first application of the new state standards and most recently in the West Jordan Court Facility the second largest court building in the state, GSBS has nearly continuously had a State court facility under design since 1991. Beginning with the 6th District Facility in Richfield, Kevin Miller has been the principal designer of all of these facilities, working with the Administrative Office of the Courts' Staff, local Court Executives and the judiciary to constantly improve the functionality. Many of these facilities were constructed by county governments and included shared functions and Justice Court facilities.

GSBS has been part of the growth and refinement of court design as technology, security, and other changes have occurred. “We understand both the evolution and the current state of the art,” Miller said.

The firm, previously known as Gillies Stransky Brems Smith, is a professional corporation specializing in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and planning services through office in Salt Lake City and Fort Worth, Texas. Through a collaborative process, the firm pulls together the best that clients, the multi-disciplined staff, consultants, and construction partners have to offer.

In addition to Court projects, GSBS has designed the Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building seismic upgrade, the South Towne Exposition Center, Cottonwood Corporate Center, Olympic Ice Oval, and many other prominent projects.